



Information for Pet Services Businesses

*Pet Shops, Pet Daycare, Commercial Kennel,
Pet Grooming Services and Animal Shelters*

Board of Health Regulations
Title 8: Zoonotic Disease Control

November 9, 2009 Update # 4

Revised drafts of the new regulations are now available online

The revised drafts of the proposed regulations for pet shops, specialty pet food retailers, commercial kennels, pet daycares, pet grooming services, animal shelters and the permit fee schedule are now posted on our website at

www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/ehs/petregs.

If you would like to receive a hard copy by mail call Leah Helms at 206-263-8450.

The Board of Health briefing

The briefing for the King County Board of Health regarding the new regulations is scheduled for **December 10, 2009**. The adoption hearing is scheduled for January 21, 2010.

The meetings are open to the public. If you wish to testify at the meeting you must register on sign in sheets provided on the day of the meeting.

For information about Board of Health meeting times and locations see the website at www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/BOH.

What has changed in the drafts ?

We have carefully reviewed comments received at our August stakeholders meetings and by phone, mail or on-line. The following section describes changes to the proposed codes based on your feedback.

NEW ADDITIONS *(This content does not reflect all changes in the draft.)*

Animal shelters - New categories

Recognizing that shelters vary widely in their size and number of animals housed, we have established three categories with lower permit fees for the smaller shelters and satellite adoption facilities.

Category 1 - ≤1,500 adoptions per year, \$182

Category 2 - ≥ 1,500 adoptions per year, \$291

Category 3 - Satellite pet adoption facility, \$60

Satellite pet adoption facilities - New category

Animal shelters that use satellite adoption facilities must have permits for those sites if animals are regularly housed and cared for at the satellite location. A permit is not needed for occasional or temporary adoption events. In order to qualify for the Category 3 permit the satellite adoption facility must be located within a business already permitted by Public Health as another type of pet business (e.g., a pet shop, specialty pet food retailer or pet daycare). The satellite adoption facility must meet all applicable standards in the pet business regulations.

If a pet adoption service is a "stand alone" facility - meaning it is not co-located with another type of pet facility - it would not qualify as a "satellite adoption facility". Instead, it would be classified as an animal shelter in Category 1 (performing up to 1500 pet adoptions per year) or Category 2 (performing over 1500 pet adoptions per year).

Mobile groomers - New category

Mobile grooming businesses with more than one vehicle will pay a base permit fee plus a reduced fee for each additional vehicle owned by one business, providing that the vehicles can be inspected at the same place and at the same time.

Specialty pet food retailer - New category

Businesses that sell refrigerated or frozen raw pet foods will now be permitted as a **Specialty Pet Food Retailer** and not as a Pet Shop Risk 1. The regulations for these businesses are still in the pet shop code section but now have a separate permit classification. A separate permit for sales of raw pet foods will not be required for businesses that already hold another pet services permit (e.g. pet shop, pet daycare, commercial kennel). Specialty pet food retailers are not subject to plan review. Requirements for equipment and storage now also now include *(for complete list of all requirements see the draft regulations)*:

- Frozen raw or unprocessed animal-derived pet foods or treats must be stored below and away from frozen pet foods that do not contain raw animal-derived ingredients; and
- Avoid storing food or beverages for human consumption in the same refrigerator or freezer unit as raw or unprocessed animal-derived pet foods or pet treats offered for sale.

NEW DEFINITIONS *(This content does not reflect all language changes in the draft.)*

Pet Daycare Facility: “Pet daycare facility” means any commercial facility where four or more dogs or other pet animals are left by their owners for periods of supervised social interaction in play groups with other animals of the same species for the majority of the time the pets are at the facility during the hours the facility is open to the public.

Specialty Pet Food Retailer: “Specialty pet food retail business” or “specialty pet food retailer” means a retail establishment selling raw or unprocessed animal-derived pet foods or pet treats that require refrigeration at or below forty-one degrees Fahrenheit or freezing to prevent spoilage.

Mobile Grooming Unit: “Mobile grooming unit” means any mobile vehicle used as a pet grooming service.

Satellite Pet Adoption Facility: “Satellite pet adoption facility” means a fixed location within a separately permitted pet shop, commercial kennel, pet daycare facility, pet grooming service or specialty pet food retail business where an animal shelter houses, cares for, and regularly offers pets for adoption from the fixed location.

Water resistant: “Water resistant” means that which repels water. The following materials and substances shall be considered water resistant: painted or sealed wood surfaces, sealed concrete, sealed concrete blocks, stainless steel, vinyl flooring, glass, treated or sealed paneling, fiberglass, tile, tile blocks, and other materials approved by the director on a case by case basis after finding that the material is water resistant.

DELETIONS - Significant requirements removed from the proposed regulations. *(This content does not reflect all language changes in the draft.)*

Pet Aquatic Facilities: Permits will not be required.

Pet Daycares: Fecal exams will not be required.

Pet Grooming Services: Rules pertaining to comingling of animals and supervision have been deleted. Records of rabies vaccination will not be required. Facilities permitted as a pet shop, pet daycare, commercial kennel, or animal shelter that give incidental baths to animals attending or housed at the facility will not be required to have a pet grooming services permit.

Pet Shop: Retail sales of refrigerated or frozen raw pet foods have been removed from the definition of pet shop and are now termed **Specialty Pet Food Retailers**.

Updated Fee Schedule

If the regulations for pet services businesses are adopted, fees for pet services businesses will be located within the Board of Health Code (BOH) Title 2. The fee schedule for pet services businesses now includes fees for 2010-2012 and allows for a maximum five percent increase in service fees based on Environmental Health’s unified hourly rate.

The Environmental Health Division of Public Health adopts fees over three-year periods and are based on a unified hourly rate in order to make the fee-setting process more efficient and to provide more stability in fees.

Annual review and fee adjustment where costs of providing services will increase by less than five percent or decrease.

Additionally, BOH Code 2.06.008 requires that the director annually review fees and if the cost of providing services will increase by less than five percent of the cost of providing services in the current year, the director shall reduce fees from levels established in BOH title 2 so that the fees shall not exceed the actual cost of providing services.

The code of the King County Board of Health is online www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/BOH/code

What do the fees pay for?

The permit fees paid for by pet services businesses pay for public health inspections to determine code compliance; educational visits and consultations with businesses owners/managers on issues such as sanitation and disease control; development of zoonotic disease prevention materials such as posters and brochures for use by pet services businesses; and response to complaints from the public concerning permitted businesses. Public Health may also notify businesses of product recalls when a public health hazard is identified. Public Health staff involved with inspections and consultations include a registered sanitarian and a licensed veterinarian specializing in public health.

**For the latest information
and to sign up for email updates
visit our website at**

www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/ehs/petregs